

that the Office has not provided an adequate reason or example to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness or shown that a burden exists in searching the entire application.

The Office has characterized the inventions of Groups II and I as process of making and product made. Citing MPEP §806.05(f), the Office states that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as one that forms the adhesive mixture on the positive electrode and the negative electrode and then bonds each of the electrodes to the separator.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown how its suggested process is materially different from the claimed process. Applicants further traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not demonstrated that the product as claimed can in fact be made by the process that the Office has suggested. Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement is believed to be improper, and should be withdrawn.

Applicants further traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown how a search of only two subclasses would be burdensome. Applicants respectfully point out that thousands of U.S. patents have issued in which many more than two subclasses have been searched, and the Office cannot reasonably posit that a search of only two subclasses would be burdensome. Accordingly, the restriction is believed to be improper, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman F. Oblon", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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